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**EVANS & REEVES
NURSERIES**

"It's Different"



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Throw Another Candle on the Cake!

In the language of the plant world, The Grapevine is at least and at last a biennial and, with continued encouragement from without and enthusiasm from within, may eventually become perennial!

Our endeavor now as in the past is to bring to your attention the new, the different, the interesting and the practical for the garden, not in an effort to supplant other more comprehensive publications but to supplement them. As we also sell plants, The Grapevine cannot but be commercial, but we hope that, as it is to us, it is more than an advertisement to you, that it adds to your enthusiasm for, knowledge and enjoyment of plants and their culture. As always, your comments are solicited and welcomed!

We'll make our annual bow to the staff of The Grapevine—to such regulars as Hugh Evans, Bill Evans (New and Rare), Phil Chandler (It's Time For . . .); and to contributors, Jack Evans, Kem Banks, Lew Waterman and Gunter Herman, concluding with a special bow to Lila Gottlieb who "got it coming and going" by way of manipulating typewriter and addressograph!

The Evans & Reeves Grapevine

Los Angeles Calif.

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NO. 1



SUPERB HERB

Stand Back!

There are a number of decorative plants with tiny leaves, there are even more with medium leaves and quite a few with large leaves. But when we move into a class where leaves are measured with a yardstick we think you should be interested!

GUNNERA CHILENSIS is a moisture-loving herb from Chile named in honor of the Eighteenth Century Swedish botanist, Gunner. The term herb is sometimes misleading, this one for example is not to be tucked into a corner of the kitchen garden because it is rather uninhibited and has a habit of pushing up leaves that measure (hold your hat) over six (6) feet across. That's a lot of leaf, and a plant with six or seven of these leaves is a lot of plant!

The texture of *Gunnera* foliage is not like that of elephant-ear or banana—our hero has very heavy rough leaves with prominent ribs and a skin you hate to touch, but for bold tropical effect this is it!

Situation wanted: afternoon shade or filtered light, out of the wind, rich soil and plenty of water. Untroubled by frost but not happy in dry heat. In the late fall *Gunnera* will slowly fold up into a small nub (this is where the "herb" comes in) and sit out the winter until the first days of spring when it lunges forth with startling speed.

No tricks—easy to grow, *Gunnera* also

It's Time For . . .

Perennial border experts will tell you to plant same in the fall, but most of us like best to browse in the nursery and pick unexpected or forgotten blobs of color as the plants come into bloom. Well, you should have fun in May. **ASTER FRIKARTI** will be showing its first soft blue-lavender and you remember how last year you wished you had put in more. May until mid-December is pretty good for one

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(Continued on inside page)

Hugh Evans

Perhaps we could do with a little more simplicity in our lives and in our tastes and also in the names of our plants. Some years ago, at a flower show, there was exhibited a small Lily, staggering under the name of "Lilium umbellatum thunbergianum bulbiferum var. nigro-maculatum." I have not encountered this unhappy plant recently, and I fear the poor thing has given up the unequal struggle for existence. Compare a name of this kind with the scholarly simplicity of the great botanist Linnaeus who named the mighty English oak "Quercus robur" and when he was asked to choose a plant to bear his own name, chose "Linnaea," a creeping, humble sub-shrub. That the botanical names of plants, as of drugs, should be fixed in a dead language is right and proper and indeed essential, so that the name is intelligible to nationals of any country and readily recognizable. But a little restraint in nomenclature is desirable.

I admire and revere botanists and like to spend time in their society—after all, they cannot very well change my name without my consent and that of the Court—but when it comes to the names of plants they reign supreme. Even while your back is turned the curse has fallen! Some fine plant known and loved for years by a seemly and melodious name, has had that name changed; in the circumstances we can hope that the plant is unconscious of the liberty taken! But enough of this: I do not want to be regarded as indulging in facetiousness, of which I have a horror.

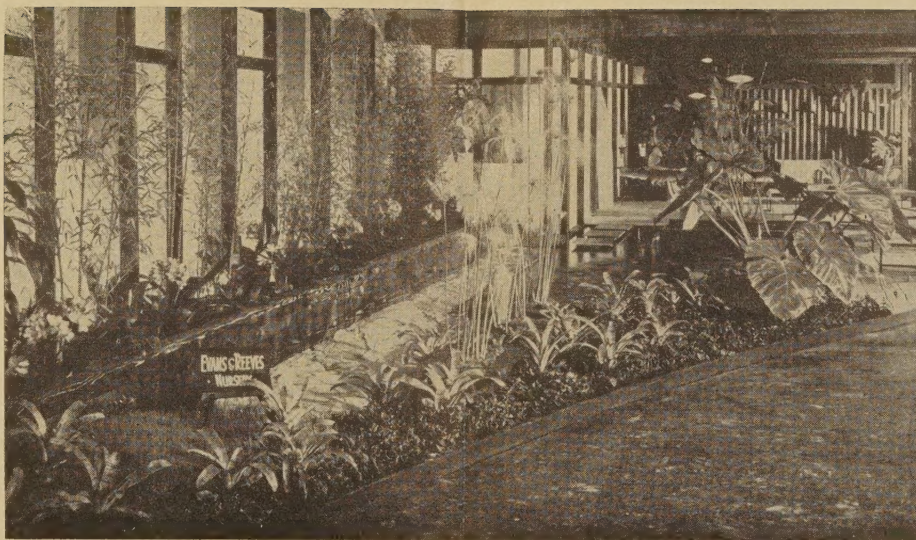
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True gardeners are Nature's Priests, and while "There is a Divinity which shapes our ends" and those of our plants, also we, to a large extent, have in our keeping their well-or ill-being. While I am a profound admirer of lush tropical foliage and plants which ordinarily demand some shade and an abundance of water, I am also much drawn towards that large class of plants which planted on a sunny bank or hillside, after the first year, ask for nothing much but to be left alone. The great family of sun loving shrubs have too often been badly treated. To plant these shrubs from North and South Africa, West Australia and the Mediterranean region in the average flower border where they get incessant sprinkling is to invite their destruction. The heavy drinkers and the abstainers must be kept apart.

GUNNERA . . .

(Continued from front page)

has no flowers worthy of mention, but then you can't have everything. Husky plants with terrific potential, one gallon cans, \$1.75; four gallon, \$5.



PRIZEWINNING garden and lanai displayed by Evans and Reeves at the 1952 International Flower Show featuring exotic patio plants, refreshing "rain"-filled reflecting pools, and inviting terrace. Philodendrons, Clivias, Bromeliads, Bamboo, Papyrus, giant Grape, and Palms make up the visible portion of this tropical garden for a California home.

It's Time For . . .

(Continued from front page)

compact near-shrub for less than a dollar. Other reliable "blues" in cans at 85 cents are VERONICA SPICATA (16 inches), STOKESIA CYANEA (laevis) (16 inches), LIMONIUM PEREZII (Statice) (two feet and across), native PENSTEMON HETEROPHYLLUS (18 inches) and PLATYCODON, all for mostly sun; and several low CAMPANULAS for some shade. In "yellows" you'll find all-gold TRITONIA, GAILLARDIA SUN GOLD, VERBASCUM, DAYLILIES, and POTENTILLA WARRENSI (a new low one); in pink, the incomparable DIANTHUS PRINCESS, HESPERIS, SIDALCEA, REHMANNIA, and PENSTEMON ROCKCLIFFE, all the same price, 85 cents. Then there are the new dwarf TRITONIAS in mixed pastel shades, the bright RED PENSTEMON, 85 cents; in flats at 50 cents a dozen, the ever more various PETUNIAS in pink, white, burgundy, and blue-violet; and in plant bands fresh young CHRYSANTHEMUMS at 25 cents.

PELARGONIUMS deserve generous groupings in various parts of the garden, for at 75 cents you can have a whole bush of color from May until August or later. Sun or partial shade, for pots, boxes, flower beds. Take your pick from an entire lathhouse of them.

Shrubs for the month will include at least two BRUNFELSIIAS, violet to lavender to white, one, B. calycina floribunda, extremely fragrant; the other, B. calycina eximia, the most floriferous, for a moist situation in partial shade with slightly acidified soil; and MICHELIA FUSCATA, another fragrant subject with Camellia-like foliage but actually of the Magnolia family, also for part shade. Both these choice ornamentals are \$1.25 to \$4.50.

Four outstanding trees of the month, all flowering, are ALBIZZIA JULIBRISIN, the pink mimosa, with ferny foliage and showy stamens flowers; HYMENOSPORUM FLAVUM, medium-sized, slow evergreen tree with fragrant golden blossoms; the lovely orchid-flowered South African, CALODENDRON CAPENSE, the Cape Chestnut (all, \$1.25 to \$5); and CHIRANTHODENDRON PLATANOIDES, the fabulous monkey-paw tree, another big-leafed tropical for sun and deep soil. The tulip flowers containing the red and yellow "paw" are displayed in our sales office almost daily. \$2.50 to \$17.50. This month's EUCALYPTUS, TORQUATA, is a small slender tree of open habit with a curtain of rose-pink flowers, \$1 to \$4.50. And if you have a new home that needs a quick umbrella of shade there's KOELREUTERIA, a \$4 plant of four to five feet which will be nine to eleven feet this summer.

Summer annuals for May planting include ZINNIAS, separate colors and

THE ICE PLANT COMETH

Fluorescent Florescence

That succulent plant which held many a slope against the ravages of our liquid climate this winter, the Mesembryanthemum, is currently demonstrating that it has other more aesthetic qualities as the various species successively carpet these same slopes with fluorescent hues of crimson, orange and magenta as well as yellow and white.

While the restless botanists have assigned many and various names to the species formerly known generically as Mesembryanthemum, we will not be provokingly pedantic about their new tags as the process of classification is incomplete and impermanent! Suffice to say that our subject is still referred to by most of us as ice plant.

What is of interest is their decorative and service potential, actually not fully realized in southern California, which in contrast to similar climatically endowed areas (the Riviera, and South Africa—whence come most of the family) still makes limited use of them. In South Africa the variously textured leaves and intense colors blanket vast areas or rise in shrubby clumps, while the terraces and palisades of the Mediterranean are hung with living tapestries of the brilliant flowers, each vivid color accentuating but not dominating the other.

From the robust, coarse foliage and yellow flowers of M. edule, the most commonly planted for cover and security, to the tiny grey nubs and rosy lavender flowers of M. floribundum, there are blistered and hirsute fleshy leaves, long or short, triangular, round, cordate, in tight mats to undulating shrubs, flowers large or small, vividly colored or innocuous. With careful selection of types, year-round color can be achieved.

Cascading from planters on sun decks, framing flagstone, ornamenting arid spots, or as foundations for rock gardens, the Mesembryanthemums require only sun and drainage, accepting all other abuse happily: sterile soils, aridity, heat, drought. Gallon cans, 75 cents; flats, \$6 per hundred.

mixed; ASTERS the same, single and double; SALVIA BONFIRE; MARIGOLDS, tall and low; all 40 cents a dozen, \$2.80 a hundred; and VERBENAS, BROWALLIA, MIMULUS, and BEGONIAS, 50 cents, \$3.50.

Don't forget, too, the chores of the month. Use weed killer on lawns. Watch for lawn moth. Spray weekly with nicotine sulphate for aphids, Orthorix for mildew, Vaportone for red spider, and Chlordane for worms. You can use all simultaneously. Water the garden deeply if days are warm. If foggy, water in morning and not at night.



Fuchsias . . .

**EXCITING NEW VARIETIES NEVER OFFERED BEFORE
—OUR OWN ORIGINATIONS, RIGOROUSLY GARDEN-
TESTED FOR TWO YEARS AND NOW AVAILABLE IN
OUR LATHHOUSES, ALREADY FILLED WITH COUNTLESS SPLENDID
VARIETIES. \$1 in gallon containers.**

SERENADE—very large single flowers of waxy coral on a bush that attains eight by six feet; thrives in lots of sun.

RICKY—crisp double, snowy white corolla set off by flesh pink sepals, vigorous bushy grower; the first pastel Fuchsia to tolerate sun and heat.

CLAIRE EVANS—double, opening light violet blue, fading to rosy mauve, white sepals with shell pink underside; compact, bushy free bloomer for partial shade.

SAN JACINTO—vigorous bushy grower with crisp double flowers of lilac and shell pink.

CURLEW—semi-trailer for baskets; double white with flesh tinted sepals.

VENTURA—upright bush with bell-shaped coral pink and rose madder blossoms in terminal clusters.